

Message Text

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13-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AGR-10 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INT-05 LAB-04

AID-05 CIEP-02 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SOPN, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH PRESS REACTION ON GSP

1. MADRID PRESS REACTION TO SPAIN'S INELIGIBILITY FOR GSP HAS BEEN LIMITED TO A MILD AND RATHER BALANCED ARTICLE DECEMBER 2 IN "INFORMACIONES" (INDEPENDENT) AND TO A DIATRIBE IN "ARRIBA" (JOURNAL OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT) DECEMBER 11 TO WHICH EMBASSY RESPONDED SAME DAY WITH BRIEF CLARIFICATION (BELOW) FOLLOWED BY COMMENTS IN "YA" AND "ARRIBA".

2. "ARRIBA" ARTICLE, ENTITLED "SPAIN ON THE BLACK LIST," STRESSED "POLITICAL" ASPECTS OF DECISION NOT TO INCLUDE SPAIN, NOTED INCLUSION OF TWO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ON GSP LIST, AND SAID SPAIN WAS CONSIDERED BY U.S. AS ONE OF A GROUP OF "POLITICALLY DOUBTFUL" COUNTRIES. ARTICLE IGNORED LEGAL ASPECTS OF SPAIN'S FAILURE TO QUALIFY AND SAID U.S. OFFERED ONLY ONE POSSIBLE RESOLUTION TO PROBLEM, UNCLASSIFIED

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NAMELY TO CUT TIES WITH EEC DESPITE OFFICIAL U.S. POSITION

SUPPORTING SPANISH ENTRY INTO EUROPE.

3. EMBASSY SENT FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO "ARRIBA" AND OTHER MADRID NEWSPAPERS AND TO SPANISH NEWS AGENCIES: "THE DECEMBER 11, 1975, EDITION OF 'ARRIBA' CARRIED AN INACCURATE AND ISLEADING ARTICLE FROM THE NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT OF PYRESA ACCUSING THE UNITED STATES OF HAVING PLACED SPAIN ON A 'BLACK LIST' OF COUNTRIES INELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL TARIFF PREFERENCES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL PUT INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1, 1976.

4. "THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A 'BLACK LIST' OF COUNTRIES NOR ARE POLITICAL MOTIVES IN ANY WAY INVOLVED. THE MORE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING MANY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ALLIES AND TRADING PARTNERS OF THE UNITED STATES, WILL NOT BE GRANTED SPECIAL TARIFF PREFERENCES. SOME OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS SPAIN, ARE PRESENTLY INELIGIBLE UNDER SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF U.S. LAW BECAUSE OF SOME ECONOMIC POLICIES THEY HAVE PREJUDICIAL TO U.S. TRADE. SPAIN HAS NOT YET BEEN DESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE FOR PREFERENCES BECAUSE OF A SPECIFIC SECTION IN THE U.S. TRADE ACT OF 1974 WHICH EXCLUDES COUNTRIES GRANTING TARIFF PREFERENCES TO OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES UNLESS STEPS ARE TAKEN TO REMOVE THE DAMAGE TO U.S. TRADE FROM SUCH PREFERENCES.

5. "CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN ARE PRESENTLY CONTINUING TO DETERMINE WHAT STEPS THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT MAY BE WILLING TO TAKE TO ELIMINATE THE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECTS TO U.S. COMMERCE RESULTING FROM TARIFF PREFERENCES SPAIN GRANTS THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET ON SOME ITEMS. SOME OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH THE COMMON MARKET HAVE QUALIFIED AS BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES BY AGREEING TO REMOVE SUCH ADVERSE EFFECTS ON U.S. COMMERCE BY JANUARY 1, 1976.

6. "STEPS TO REMOVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON U.S. COMMERCE DO NOT REQUIRE ANY COUNTRY TO BREAK OR DAMAGE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMON MARKET. THE U.S. CONTINUES TO SUPPORT CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF
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WESTERN EUROPE, INCLUDING THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

7. "ARTICLES WHICH DRAW ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS FROM INACCURATE INFORMATION CAN HARDLY BE HELPFUL TO THE CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES."

8. "INFORMACIONES" PRINTED EMBASSY STATEMENT DEC.12

WITHOUT COMMENT. "ARRIBA" ALSO RAN THE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AND ADDED ANOTHER FULL PAGE ATTACK DEC.13 ENTITLED "YES THERE IS A BLACK LIST", WHICH WAS MUCH LONGER THAN THE INITIAL ARTICLE, ---"YA" (CATHOLIC DAILY), IN EDITORIAL DECEMBER 17 ENTITLED "ANOTHER UNJUST U.S. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SPAIN", USED THE EMBASSY'S STATEMENT AS BASIS FOR BROAD ATTACK ON U.S.-SPANISH TRADE RELATIONS SAYING GSP QUESTION IS "JUST ONE MORE SYMPTOM OF THE DIFFICULT AND DISCRIMINATORY CLIMATE FOR SPANISH EXPORTS ---TO THE U.S." "YA" CITES LARGE SPANISH TRADE DEFICIT WITH U.S. AND ARGUES THAT SPAIN'S POLICY OF MOVING TOWARD CLOSER RELATIONS WITH EEC IS ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE U.S. ECONOMY BECAUSE OF BENEFITS THAT WILL ACCRUE TO AMERICAN INVESTORS IN SPAIN. "YA" ALSO QUESTIONS WHY GREECE (SIC), TURKEY AND ISRAEL ARE ACCORDED U.S. PREFERENCES WHEN ALL GRANT PREFERENCES TO EEC EXPORTS. IF GREECE AND TURKEY ARE FAVORED, ACCORDING TO "YA", SPAIN DESERVES GSP EVEN MORE BECAUSE IT PERMITS U.S. MILITARY BASES HERE. OTHER PAPERS AND VARIOUS WEEKLIES HAVE SO FAR CHOSEN TO IGNORE THE ISSUE. STABLER

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